

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT WED APRIL 30 2014

...Severe weather awareness week continues...

April 27 to May 3 is severe weather awareness week in New York...Vermont...Connecticut...and Massachusetts. All residents are urged to be weather ready by protecting themselves from the hazards of flooding...tornadoes severe thunderstorms.

Today we review **severe weather preparedness and safety**.

Here are steps you can take before...during and after a storm to help keep safe this season. Your chances of remaining safe during severe weather are greater if you follow these safety rules.

Before a storm...develop a plan...whether at home...school...work...church or when outdoors. Identify a safe place to take shelter. Conduct frequent drills. **Know what action you will take when a warning is issued. Know where to receive the latest weather information.**

During severe weather...postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent or occurring. Move to a sturdy building or car. Stay away from tall objects such as towers... Isolated trees and telephone poles. If caught outdoors...find a low spot. Make sure your choice is not susceptible to flooding. If in the woods...take shelter under smaller trees. If you are boating or swimming...seek shelter on land immediately.

If a tornado warning is issued...move to a pre designated place of safety...preferably a basement or interior room. Stay away from windows. Get as low to the ground as possible. Cover your head. If caught outdoors and a tornado threatens...lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. **Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris causes most fatalities and injuries during a tornado.** Mobile homes offer little protection from a tornado. Evacuate your mobile home and move to your designated place of safety.

After the severe weather has cleared...if the power is out...use flashlights...not flammable objects such as candles...torches...or lanterns. Report broken utility lines to the authorities. Boil drinking water before use. Do not visit disaster areas.

You should prepare now for the upcoming severe weather season. **Today is America's preparation. Be smart. Take part. Prepare.**

NOAA Weather Radio offers one way to receive immediate relay of severe weather warnings. Many local television and radio stations also broadcast weather alerts. Computers and wireless devices can also receive warnings. The Red Cross...many state emergency management agencies and private vendors have wireless applications that will alert you of severe weather by relaying National Weather Service warnings.

For more information on severe weather awareness week...go to our web site www.weather.gov. Then click on eastern New York or western New England. Finally...select our severe weather awareness link.

Tomorrow we look at tornadoes...and conduct our severe weather communication drill.